

into it because, apart from my buddy Frank Bryan, others at UVM were reluctant to do it.”

Nelson has been analyzing Vermont politics for print and television journalists since Democrat Phil Hoff sat in the governor’s office in the 1960s. He’s provided plenty of straight, factual observations but over time became known for a spicier variety of analysis.

He admits that he’s dished it out unevenly. Nelson thinks highly of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), for whom he worked for two years, so Leahy has largely been spared his barbs. He has also generally spoken favorably of the political skills of former U.S. senator Jim Jeffords (I-Vt.) and former Republican governors Jim Douglas and Richard Snelling.

For Sanders, whose political career he’s followed since 1981, Nelson has both criticism and affection. “The difference between Bernie and most of the lefties is, Bernie wants to win,” Nelson said in the October 2015 New Yorker article. “Most lefties don’t want to win, because if you win, you sell out your purity.”

His analysis was acceptable to his daughter, Shyla Nelson Stewart, a Sanders devotee who seconded the senator’s nomination at the Democratic National Convention.

“The most important thing he said was, Bernie has been on the same agenda his entire career,” she said of her dad’s comments, “and that that agenda has caught up with the times.”

Nelson has been harder on Dean and Congressman Peter Welch (D-Vt.).

“I never understood why Howard was running for president other than the fact that Howard wanted to be president,” he said before class one day last month. “It was just Howard’s ego.” Dean did not respond to a message from Seven Days seeking his point of view.

Nelson is slightly less dismissive of Welch. Nelson said their feud started when he made a comment to a reporter during Welch’s 1988 campaign for the Democratic U.S. House nomination, saying Welch’s strategy of concentrating his campaign in southern Vermont was a mistake. “Peter took offense,” Nelson said. When Welch confronted him, Nelson said, he responded with choice words.

Welch insisted last week that he doesn’t remember the incident or Nelson’s specific comments, though he did say the professor was always critical.

“He showed no mercy,” Welch said. “He was extremely good at cutting folks down to a size that was smaller than they thought they deserved.”

Daughter Stewart provides some insight. “What my father has most railed against is anyone who has even the slightest sense of entitlement,” she said of Nelson, who often talks about growing up poor.

Nelson saw that attitude in Dean, who grew up on New York City’s Park Avenue.

“His born-again liberalism has caught a lot of us by surprise—it’s a case of ‘Howard, we hardly knew ye,’” Nelson told the Associated Press in 2003. “He’s really a classic Rockefeller Republican: a fiscal conservative and social liberal.”

His disapproval of Welch, a lawyer from Springfield, Mass., is more complicated. Nelson viewed Welch and his late wife, Joan Smith, as a couple in search of power—his in politics and hers at UVM, where she was dean of the College of Arts and Science and Nelson’s boss.

In a 2001 column, the late Seven Days columnist Peter Freyne wrote, “Nelson told Seven Days that Smith and her husband, former gubernatorial candidate Peter Welch, ‘wanted to be the Democratic Snellings, with Peter holding the governor’s office and Joan holding high office at the university’—a reference to the late Governor Richard Snelling and wife Barbara Snelling, who served as a UVM vice president for many years.”

Nelson does not let go of such opinions easily, nor does he like being on the receiving end of the kind of criticism he so readily doles out to others.

Nelson recalled comments Freyne made about him during Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign. “Peter bashed me in four separate columns,” Nelson said, alleging that Freyne was courting Dean’s campaign in hopes of landing a job.

In one of those columns, Freyne said, “Garrison despises Howard Dean, always has and always will. We suggest it’s all about ego—Nelson’s, not Dean’s.”

Asked why this still roiled him 13 years after Dean’s campaign ended and eight years after Freyne’s death, Nelson said, “I’m Irish, for Chrissakes; I don’t forget anything. Irish Alzheimer’s—you never forget a grudge.”

Nelson doesn’t get as much ink in the newspapers as he once did—which is his choice, he said, because answering questions from reporters takes away from his research time. He didn’t have a lot to say about

former governor Peter Shumlin and has been just as quiet on Gov. Phil Scott and President Donald Trump. But he makes no apologies for comments made over the years about politicians, students or his bosses.

“When you’re an outspoken person, you’re going to piss people off. I’ve pissed people off,” Nelson said. “But I’m still here—50 years.”

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate is considering the House Amendment to H.R. 1370, the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, which provides emergency funding for national security accounts.

This legislation includes language that increases security discretionary budget authority by \$4,686 million this year and designates it as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(1) of BBEDCA. CBO estimates that this budget authority will increase discretionary outlays by \$803 million in 2018.

As a result of the aforementioned designations, I am revising the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing the revised security budget authority limit by \$4,686 million and outlays by \$803 million this year. Further, I am increasing the budgetary aggregates for 2018 by those same amounts.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—(PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 311 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974)

[\$ in millions]

	2018
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,080,461
Outlays .....	3,100,621
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority .....	4,686
Outlays .....	803
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,085,147
Outlays .....	3,101,424

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—(PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974)

[\$ in millions]

	2018
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	549,057
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	552,266
General Purpose Outlays .....	1,187,547
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	4,686
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	803
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	553,743

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—(PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974)—Continued  
(\$ in millions)

	2018				
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....					552,266
General Purpose Outlays .....					1,188,350
	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Memorandum Detail of Adjustments Made Above:					
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	4,686	4,686
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	0	0	0	803	803

**TRIBUTE TO LUTHER STRANGE**  
Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my good friend and colleague from Alabama, Senator LUTHER STRANGE, prior to his departure from the U.S. Senate.

While LUTHER and I have worked closely together in the Senate, our friendship dates back nearly four decades. Over the years, I have had the privilege of not only getting to know LUTHER, but also getting to know his wife, Melissa, and his two sons, Luke and Keehn.

Even before LUTHER was appointed to the U.S. Senate, he and I worked alongside each other throughout much of our careers. When LUTHER was sworn in to fill Attorney General Sessions' seat, I was pleased to have him just down the hall from my office.

As soon as LUTHER was sworn into the Senate, he hit the ground running. His camaraderie, integrity, and great attitude did not go unnoticed. Another thing we all quickly observed about LUTHER in the Senate was his willingness to help in any situation. He was always the first to volunteer, whether the task be big or small. LUTHER is admired by Members on both sides of the aisle, which is rare in Washington. He has made a lot of friends in the Senate and has worked in a bipartisan fashion.

In addition to his work ethic and great attitude, LUTHER was able to accomplish an incredible amount legislatively in a short period of time. His successes include his work on the final National Defense Authorization Act conference negotiations, securing three littoral combat ships, his help in achieving the 51 votes needed to pass a once-in-a-generation tax reform package, and helping repeal Obamacare.

LUTHER's time in the Senate was cut too short. I would be remiss not to mention how much I, along with my Senate colleagues, have enjoyed his company.

I thank Senator STRANGE for his time and service both to Alabama and our Nation here in the Senate. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and I look forward to continuing our close friendship.

Thank you.

**TAX REFORM BILL**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week Congress sent the President a tax reform bill that will translate into real relief for American families.

I have spent a lot of time on the floor of the Senate talking about how this

bill will benefit these families in South Dakota and around the country.

Today I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the hard work of those Members and staff who made the legislative goal of tax reform a reality.

First, thank you to Senator Hatch for his leadership and members of the Finance Committee for a job well done. Numerous hearings, member meetings, and a lot of compromise helped us get this bill to the finish line.

As a result, the contributions and priorities of each member of the Finance Committee and, frankly, those of the entire conference are reflected in the final product.

Having once served as a staffer here myself, I would like to recognize the many staff members who contributed to this product.

Mark Warren, who serves as my tax counsel, has put in countless hours on this legislation.

It has not been unusual over the last several months to find him in his office when I arrive at work before 7 a.m. and still at his desk late into the evening. With decades of experience, including time spent at the House Ways and Means Committee and at the Treasury Department, I and other members of the committee and conference relied heavily on Mark's intricate knowledge of tax policy as we crafted this legislation.

He worked very hard to help me advance priorities in this legislation including provisions benefiting small businesses, farmers, and ranchers. Thanks in no small part to his efforts, we successfully delivered a tax reform bill that will work for them. Time spent at the office is time away from family. I am grateful to both him and his family for his efforts.

I would also like to thank my legislative director, Jessica McBride, and my staff director, Brendon Plack. Brendon is a native of Madison, SD, and has been with my office for over 12 years. Jessica is a native of Miller, SD, and has been with my office for 8 years. Their work, advice, and counsel were invaluable as we moved this bill across the finish line.

I would also like to recognize a few other staff members for their hard work: Jay Khosla, Mark Prater, Jeff Wrase, Nick Wyatt, Matt Hoffman, Tony Coughlan, Eric Oman, Jen Acuna, Marty Pippins, Alex Monie, Preston Rutledge, Bryan Hickman, Brendan Dunn, and Monica Popp.

I would also like to recognize Senator Toomey's tax staff member,

Randy Herdon, Senator Portman's tax staffer, Zach Rudisill, and Senator Scott's tax staffer, Shay Hawkins.

I know many of them over the last few months were running on very little sleep and perhaps missing important events at home with family and friends in order to be here at work. Nevertheless, they were patient, thoughtful, and tireless in their efforts because they knew the work was important and the impact would be significant.

We have all benefited from their wise counsel and have a better product for it.

Early next year, this legislation is going to have a real impact on people's lives across this country. Their hard work and contributions helped make it possible. They all worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of the work you have done on behalf of the American people.

I thank them for their service, and congratulations on a job well done.

**CONFIRMATION OF JAMES C. HO**

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I wish to voice my disappointment that Mr. James Ho was confirmed to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit.

While at the Department of Justice, Mr. Ho wrote a memo that the George W. Bush administration used to greenlight the CIA's use of torture. Furthermore, Mr. Ho's comments on campaign finance reveal a common thread among Trump judicial nominees that I find particularly disturbing.

Mr. Ho argued that some of the detainees held by the U.S. at Guantanamo were not protected under the Geneva Convention. The memo Mr. Ho wrote allowed the CIA to use interrogation techniques banned by the Geneva Convention that caused the death of a detainee. The interrogation techniques Mr. Ho claimed were legal were ineffective and their use hidden from lawmakers. As my colleague Senator MCCAIN said when he introduced an amendment to reaffirm our government's prohibition on torture in 2015, "Our enemies act without conscience. We must not."

I am also deeply concerned by Mr. Ho's radical views on money in politics. Mr. Ho has said, "For truly radical but effective reform, we must reverse course and abolish all restrictions on campaign finance." The overwhelming majority of Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, disagree strongly with Mr. Ho and believe that